Animal ACADEMY

はこぶね白書 HAKOBUNE HAKUSHO

2

MOYAMU FUJINO

HAKOBUNE HAKUSHU [2]

はこぶね白書

Cartoon by

MOYAMU FUJINO

藤野もやむ

Animal Academy: Hakobune Hakusho Volume 2
Created by Moyamu Fujino

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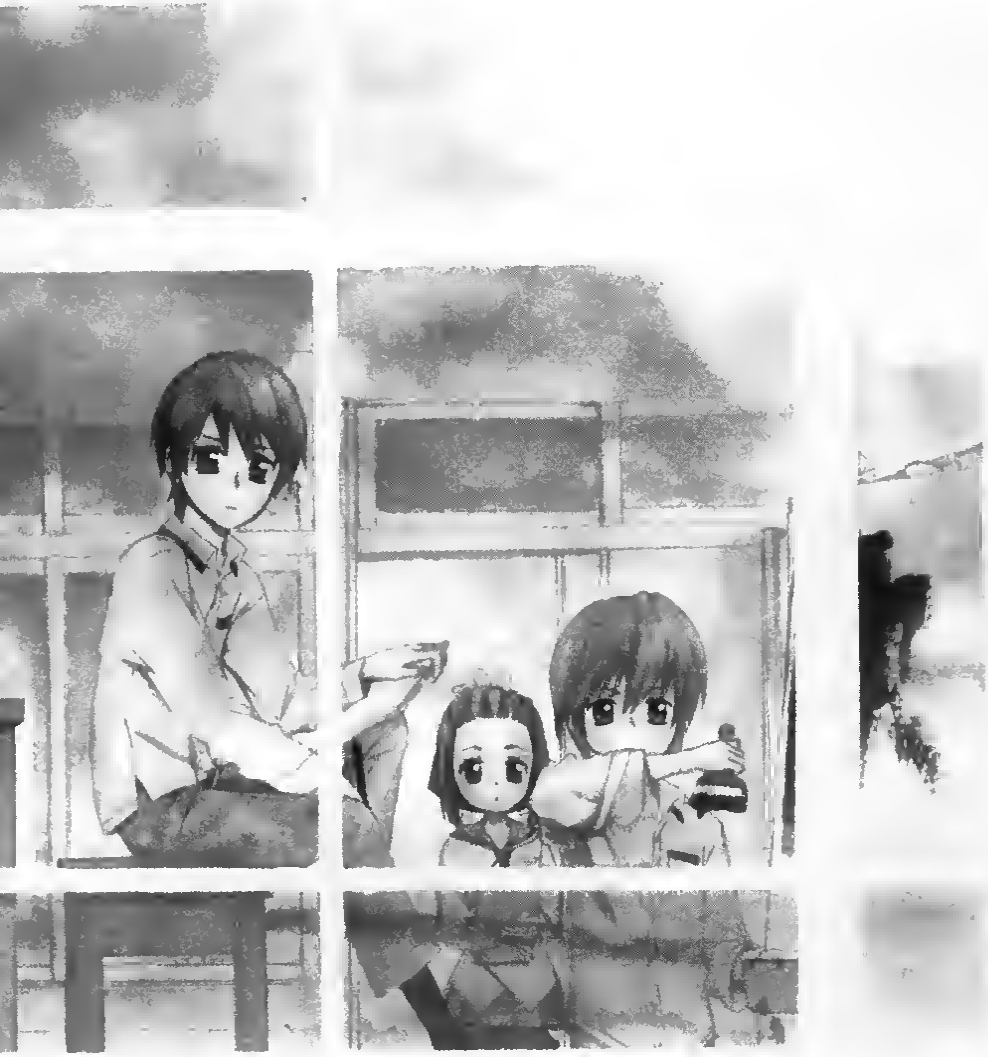
Volume 2

by

MOYAMU FUJINO



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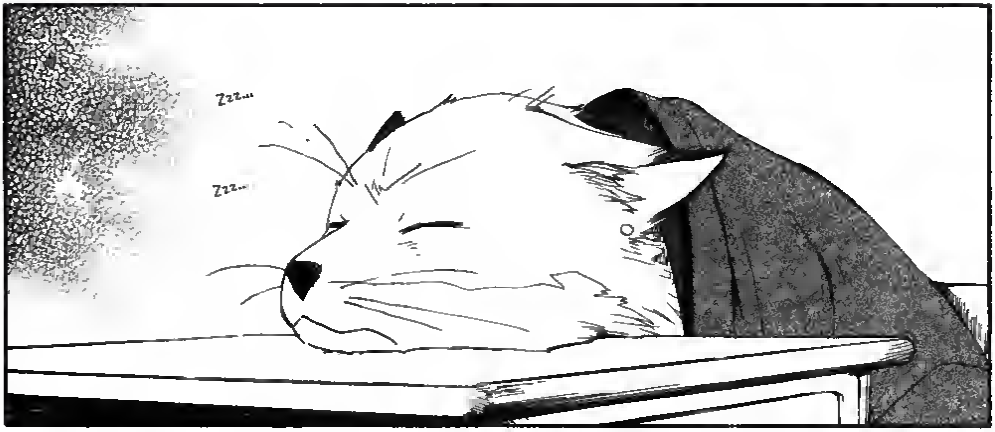
……
Don't throw so far, Shin!
Oh!
ひゃ
ぶ
ぶ
ぶ
ぶ
ぶ
ぶ
ぶ
ぶ

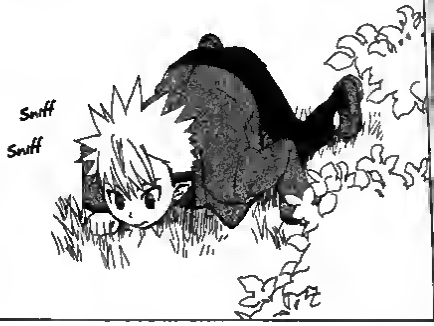
Report.5 Lullaby



Not exactly...

Shin threw it so hard that it got away.

Kotaro searched everywhere for it.



...then he couldn't find the other thing.
...but...
He finally found it...
Oh, it's been found?
Ball
What is it...?
What's the other thing?
Cam...?
"Cam"- something, maybe?
Like a box...?
Umm ...
Well, it's...

Ex- excuse me...
Hmm...
I thought I'd go look for it again after school.
It was about this big.
He doesn't know what he lost...?
Wait...
Uh ...
Huh ...?
I'm really sorry to bother you, but...
...I...I promise I'll find it. So don't worry about it.
Okay?
ナデ
.....

This is Umeka Kamaba.
We call her Ume-chan.
She sits beside Kotaro, and she's the complete opposite of him.
She's very quiet and shy. I wonder how she and Kotaro get along?
So... what did you lose, exactly?
Um... Lemme see...
Yawn...
After school.
Kotaro, is there really something out here?
I mean, can't you tell us anything other than how big it is?
Err...

Why not?
'cause you don't want to get involved with a fox and a raccoon...?
No...?
Nope.
You're not helping, Miiko?
Okay, so what the heck am I doing?
Oh yeah...
Right.
Uh uh.
Just lazy.
Whoa.
Well!
It's nice to get things figured out before they really start getting to you.
So I might as well help Kotaro.
He introduced me to Takuma-kun.
And I do owe him...

Ume-chan said things would be fine, but...
...what are we looking for, anyway?
Kotaro, just tell us what you lost, will you?
It's starting to get dark.
Kotaro?!

Yuichi!
?!!
Wh...
What's going on?
Look! This must be an exit!
An exit?
Yeah! Right here!
A way outside!

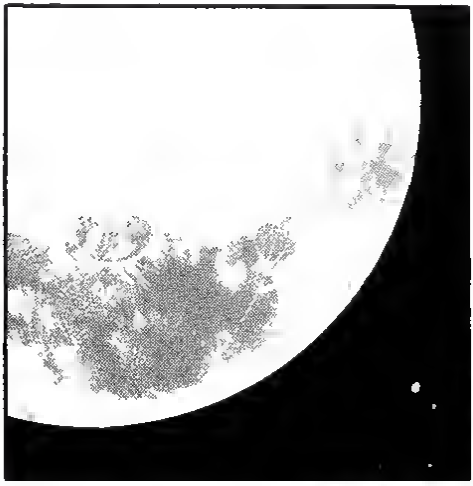
Let's go!
Yeah!
"Leave" as in... get out?
.....
You can leave from here!
Don't you want to get out of here, Yuichi?
C'mon, Miiko!
Maybe the thing I'm looking for is out there!
Just for a little bit!
...Hang on. Weren't you looking for something?
.....
Zzz..
See, I knew it!
Let's all go, then!
PLOP
Sure, but...
Well...

Wait up, will you?!
Plop
Hey! Hold--
Follow me!
Now?!
スポッ
Fune!
I'm hungry, too.
Huh? You don't want to go?
I'm tired. Let's go home.

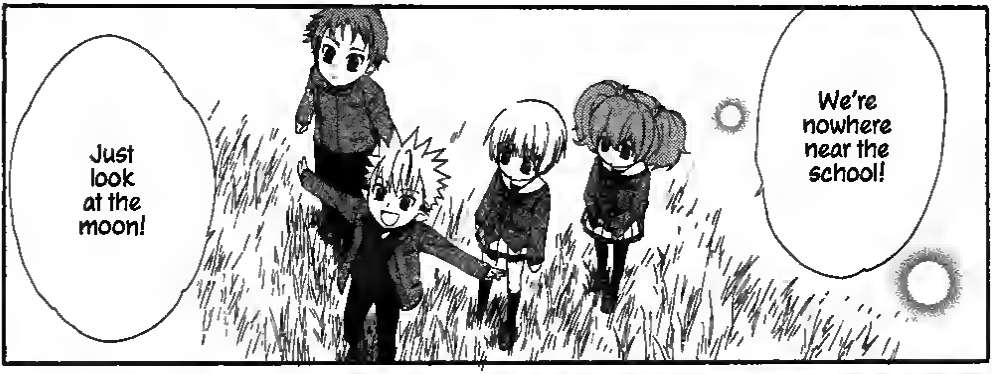
Just to check it out.
You're what?!
All right!
Well, I'm gonna go!
Yeah!
Yeah!
Oh. Right.
Of course you are! We'll go together!
You're going even though I'm not?
How often do you trip over a portal, hmm?
Fine, fine.
Princess
...you go in front.
Fune...

It's weird...
The wind blowing in there feels different.

We're out!



Really?
We're outside?


Just look at the moon!
We're nowhere near the school!

Wow...!

Don't pull me! I'm looking, okay?
Look up, Miiko!
Come on!
It's really beautiful!
It's lots bigger than it is at the school.
...really?
Yeah, it's gotta be!

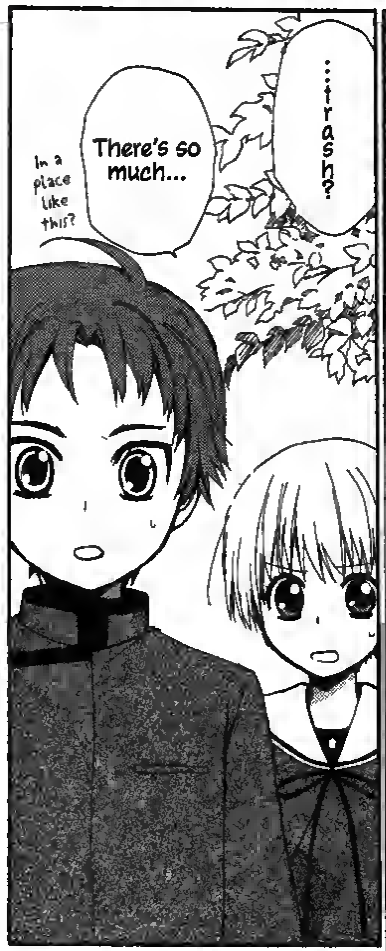
Don't you think the air smells different too?!
Just *look* at all this!
Ha ha... Yeah.
Watching a fox playing under the moon makes me think of a fairytale.
Hey! Let's go explore the human town!
I'll...pass, thanks.
Yuichi! Come run with me!

Will we be able to get back?
A little further.
...are we there yet?
Don't worry, Fune!
Don't you call her Fune!!!
Kotaro!
Ack!
ボスッ
That bush...
Huh?
Hmm?
TWITCH

I didn't smell any bait!
Huh? A trap?!
Are you okay...
...Kota--
Oh!

.....
I stepped in a bucket...
Take it off.
Huh ...?

Cr-creepy...
A...a doll?
A manne-quin...


...trash?
There's so much...
In a place like this?

Well...
This really sucks, huh?
A total letdown
Yep
.....
What *is* this stuff?
Then they won't care if we use it!
All this?!
Things humans threw away.

What does this do?
Wait, are they--?
...hun?
How do you use it?
They're going through the garbage...
Hmm...
No way I can carry it all back.
There's too much stuff.
I knew it...

I wonder if it's because the moon is so pretty...
You too?!
I wonder if there's anything useful?
This is exciting!
Heh heh.
Does it still work?
I'm surprised someone threw it out.
It's even got batteries.
Hey, a portable radio.
TV....

Ohh--!
I doubt it.
It was in the garbage...
click
Mm.
I wanna run!
Pi-chan!
Pi pi pi!
Mmm...
How mean...
I never really listen to the radio.
I used to use it for background music when I studied.
Nobody told me...
...it was gonna rain.

Still on the charts, we have...
...Kitty?
Wow!
Up next, the #2 song. That was Suzume Mori with "Rainy"!
Another morning, and...
Guess it's a new song, huh?
...I don't know this one.
But he's so...
...cool and shiny.
He sparkles!
...it's a bad hair day.
Everybody's laughing.
Yo!
Go!
Go mo go mo!
My stomach hurts a bit.
Come on!

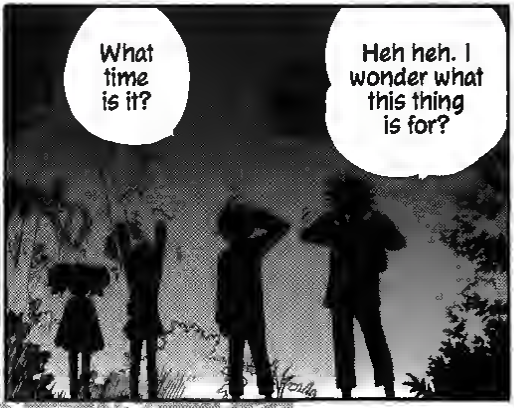
Mo go mo go!
I'm so hungry!
...way !...

Takuma-kun...
Are you thinking about going home?
But is it...
...love?
And there you have it!
Next on the countdown is our #1 song! And here to introduce it is...
Chan chan chin chan kang
Aaah! I'm totally stuck!

Kotaro, you idiot!
You'd be frozen if this was plugged in!
What's going on...?!
Aww, man!
Are you in the refrigerator?!
ガタン
Oh, a TV!
Fune, what's this?
Yeah-- frozen to death!
Frozen?
Never get inside a fridge!
Eww, but it's really dirty.
It's too big to carry back with us.

The moon's so bright.
Sure...
Oh, well. We'll just have to take a little at a time.
.....
That's great...
It's right here.
Found it!
Wow...
Can we find the entrance?
Don't worry, Fune.

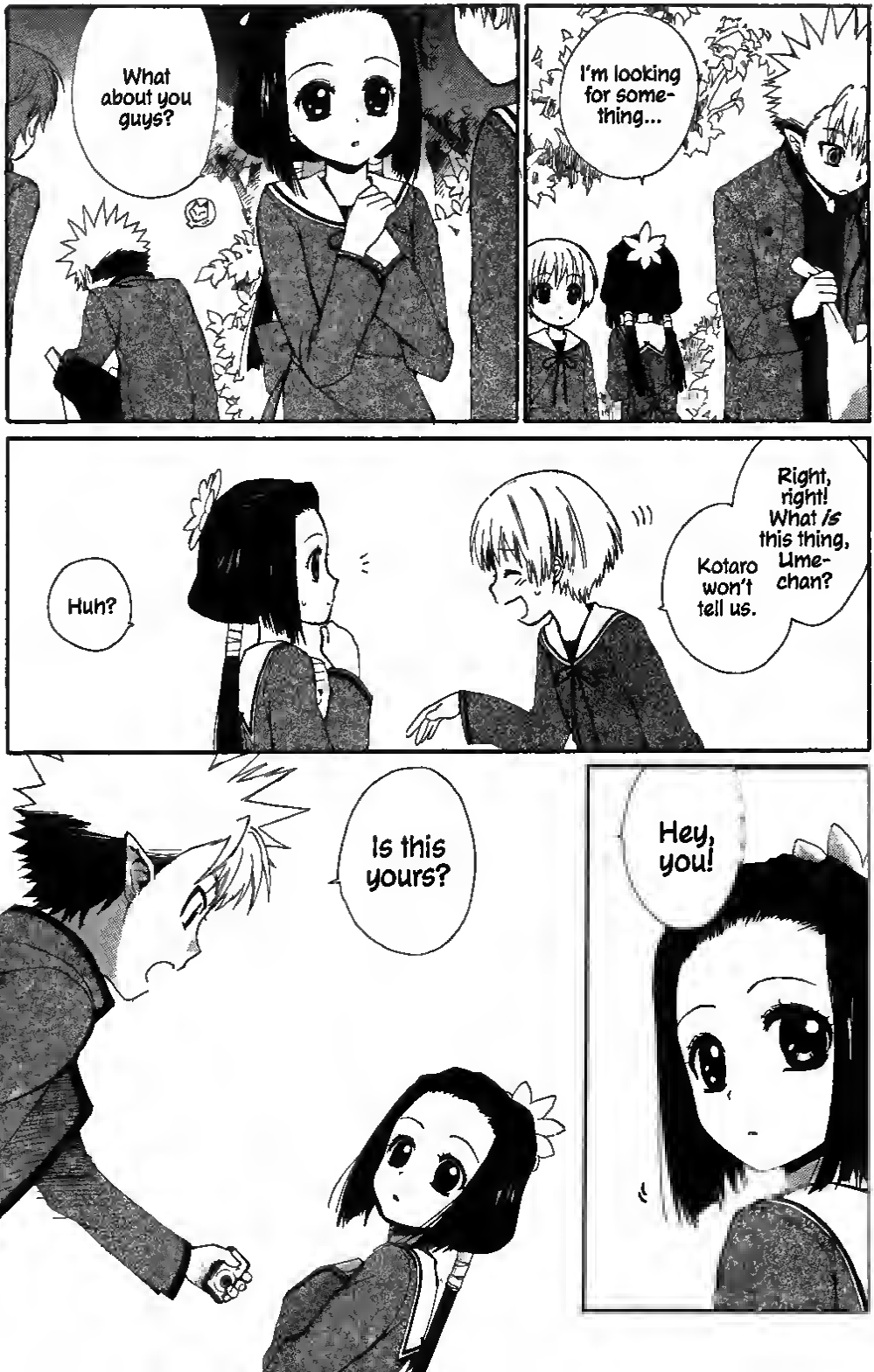
We might miss curfew.
Yeah, I'm starving.

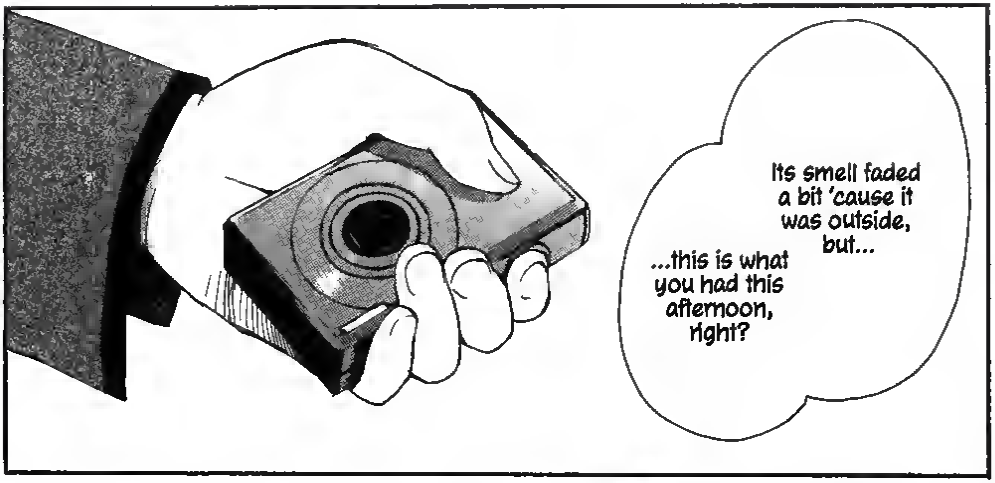

What time is it?
Heh heh. I wonder what this thing is for?

Ume... san...
...hi.
Rac-coon!

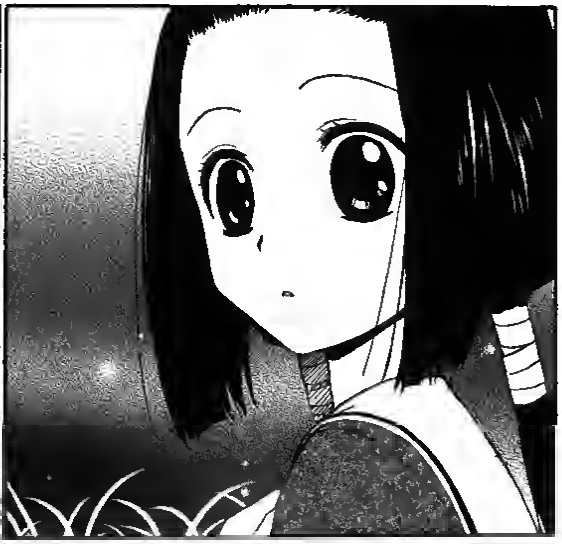
Oh!

Er... So, Ume-chan...
...what're you doing here?
...why so formal?
Oh


What about you guys?
I'm looking for something...
Huh?
Kotaro won't tell us.
Right, right! What *is* this thing, Ume-chan?
Is this yours?
Hey, you!


Its smell faded a bit 'cause it was outside, but...
...this is what you had this afternoon, right?

A camera?
Oh!
Huh? That's what you were looking for?
He did say it was this big..
Pretty high tech.



?
Yeah.

You really...
...found it for me?

.....
Um...
Thank you.
What a relief.
It's not my camera--I borrowed it.
Oh, that's it! It's called a camera!

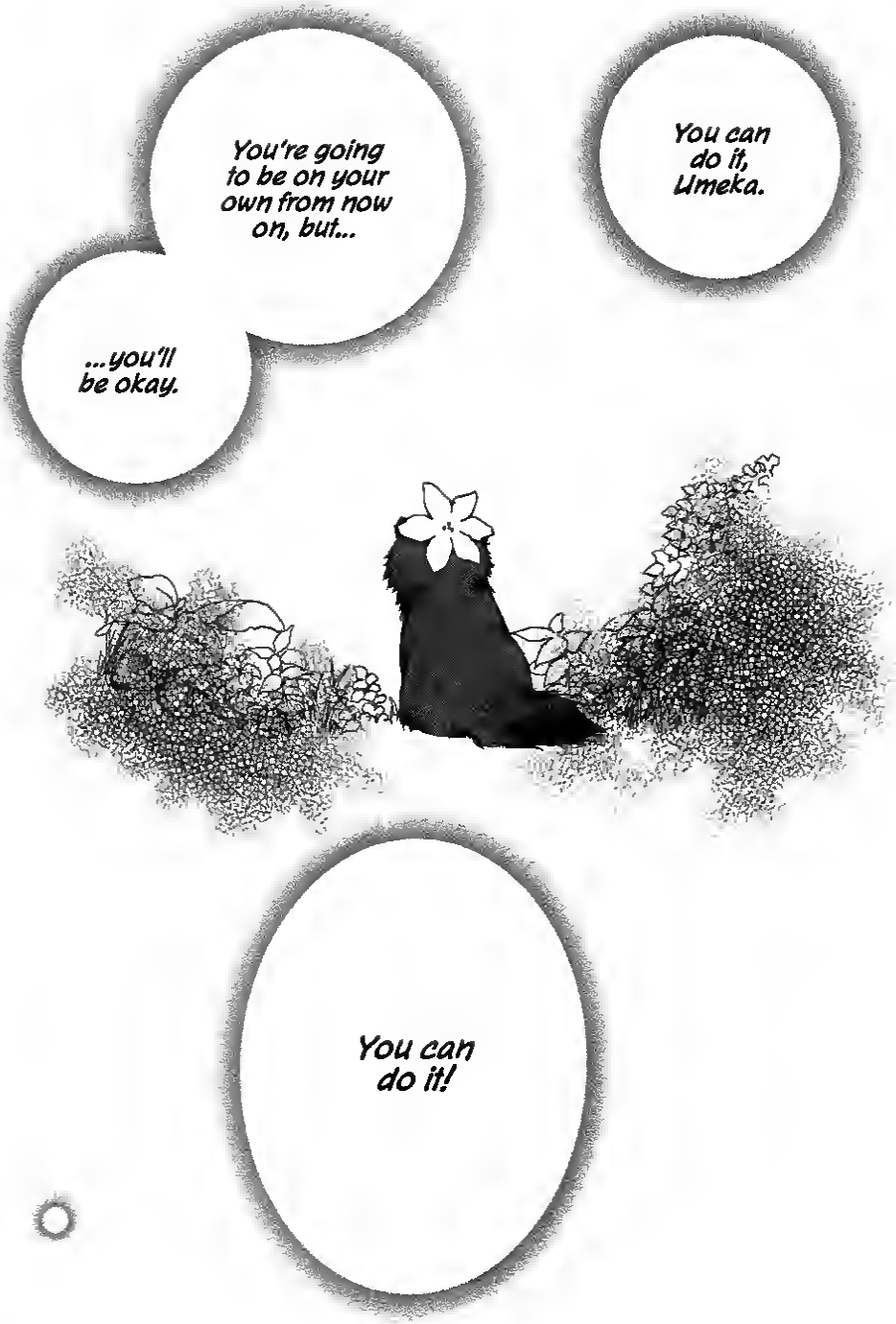
Hey...
Umm...
Let go.
.....
...how do you use that thing, anyway?

Go back to bed!
He's mad...
Really mad...
Hey, did you catch the runaways?
I tore both dorms apart looking for you!
What were you thinking, staying out this late?
.....
Um, sir...
Kotaro-kun and the others were just helping me look for something I lost.
The others...
So...
Kotaro did that?
He did! Really!
.....
...Did you find it?
Yes!
All right, fine.
However...
...rules are still rules.

Now go home before it gets dark.
Human kids have the same rules.
Yes, sir.
We will.
Punish-ment time.
And then...
My hand hurts more.
That hurt, Sensei!
Okay ...
And don't worry me anymore!
Good night.
See you tomorrow.

"See you tomorrow..."
Every-day things ...
...can make you so happy.
Don't touch me with your raccoon cooties.
Okay.
Or not...
Oh--! Miiko and Ume-chan are hitting it off.
It's nice to hear your teacher say good night.
This is...
...the first time I've taken a picture of something besides the sky.

Want a copy when I develop it?
...it feels nice.
Yeah... Not that I took that many before, but...
Rea-l-y?
Are you sure?
Kotaro and Miiko are making funny faces.
...the moonlight really did look different on the other side
I don't know where that portal is now, but...
Campus
Gym
Girls' Dorm
Boys' Dorm
What's a "develop"?

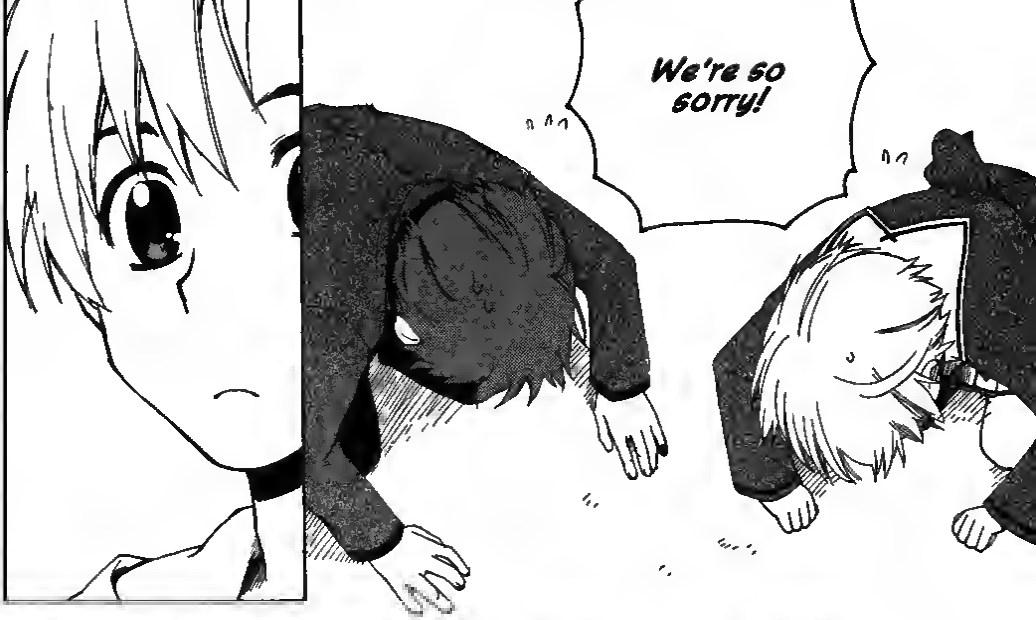

You're going to be on your own from now on, but...
...you'll be okay.
You can do it, Umeka.
You can do it!

Report.6
Hunt for the Hair Clip

Yuichi! Fune!
Watanuki-sensei wants you in the Student Advisor room!
?
I don't remember anything!
Is it about that portal?
I hope we're not in trouble.
I wonder why...
...he wants to see us?

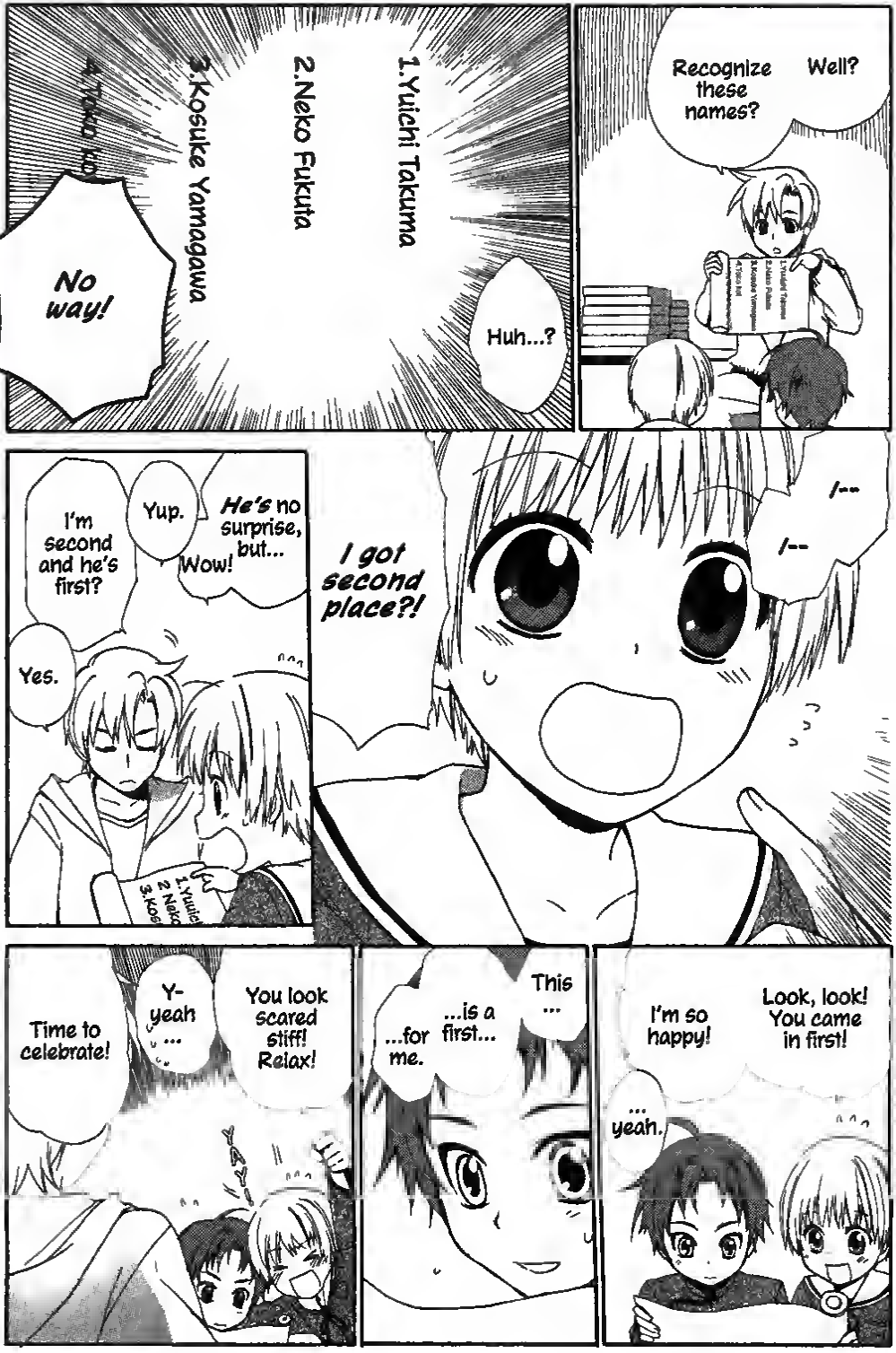
I didn't do that, though...
Oh! Maybe it's because I was doodling in my textbook...
You think?
I don't think he knows about that.
Plus, why would he only call the two of us?
So what do we have in common...?
Oh!
Fukuta-san...
...did you sign a form with three rules on it?

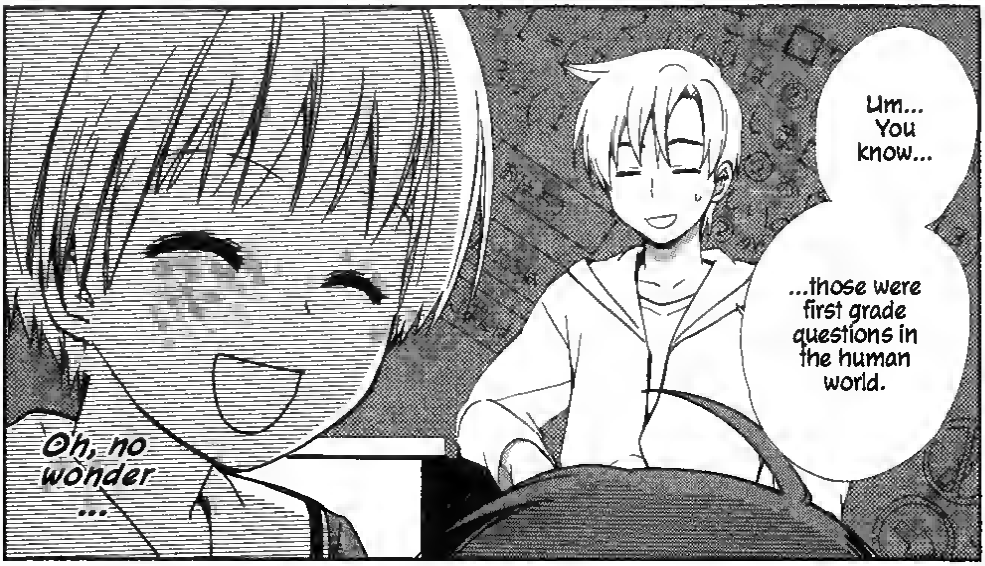
Oh! Yeah!
I did!
It was like this.
Can you act natural if you know the truth?
Can you assimilate into our school?
Can you swear to keep the fact that you are a human being secret?
The agreement to not reveal that you're human?
I, uh...
...let it slip on the first day.
.....
She didn't believe me...
.....
I don't think Miiko's figured it out.

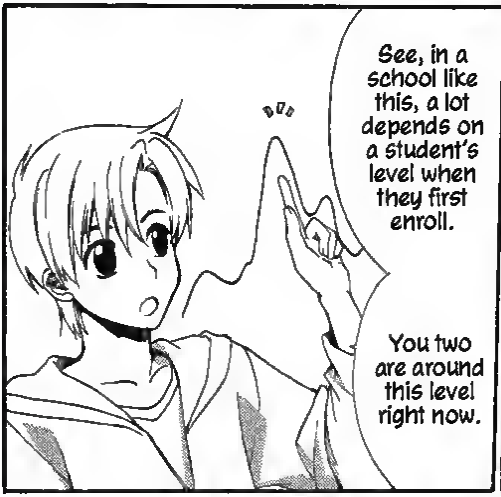

We're so sorry!

生徒指
IN USE
We're here to talk about your grades.
Then why were we called in?!
Huh? No way!
I didn't know about it.

These are the results from the April exam.
See, look.
1. Yuichi Takuma
2. Neko Fukuda
3. Kosuke Yamagawa
4. Toko Kotoko
5. Baba Koyanagi


1.Yuichi Takuma
2.Neko Fukuta
3.Kosuke Yamagawa
4.Toko Ito
No way!
Huh...?
Recognize these names?
Well?
I got second place?!
/--
/--
He's no surprise, but...
Wow!
Yup.
I'm second and he's first?
Yes.
This ...
...is a first...
...for me.
Time to celebrate!
Y-yeah ...
You look scared stiff! Relax!
I'm so happy!
Look, look! You came in first!
... yeah.

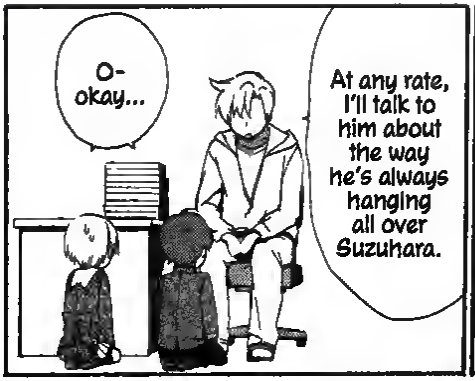

Um... You know...
...those were first grade questions in the human world.
Oh, no wonder ...

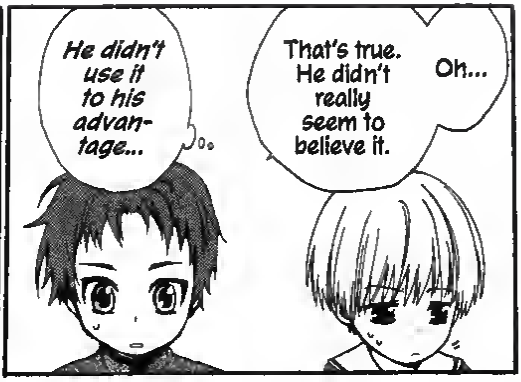

See, in a school like this, a lot depends on a student's level when they first enroll.
You two are around this level right now.

Don't worry about the other students.
Esp- ecially Kotaro...
Kotaro and Miiko aren't doing so well...

But even the students who're struggling now should be close to a normal human's level by their third year.
And right now, everyone's so focused on themselves that they don't see what's around them.

It never even...
...occurs to them that there might be humans among them.
So Kotaro already knows, hmm?
S-sorry...
Well...
...I haven't heard any rumors going around, so he probably doesn't believe it.
.....
Just keep your guard up. I also wanted to tell you to think about...
...which clubs you want to join, but...
Oh. You're saying we should try to match their grades?
Well... Not exactly, but...
They'll improve quickly.


O-okay...
At any rate, I'll talk to him about the way he's always hanging all over Suzuhara.


He didn't use it to his advantage...
That's true. He didn't really seem to believe it.
Oh...

So you both make sure nobody else finds out.
Otherwise...
.....

Anyway! As punishment, you'll be distributing these pamphlets to all the classrooms!

If someone...

Watanuki-sensei can be pretty harsh.
Yeah...
...does find out...
...what will happen to us?
Now that I think about it...
...the look on her face was really something.
?

...Miiko, you really scared me. Don't glomp me like that!
?
I'll try to remember.
You're heavy, too...
Eeep!
ずし
Fune!
Oh!
Watch out...!
フラ
I can't get away!
Kotaro again?

Owww...
ずしん
...h-heavy!
Boo!
Need help?
No, I'm fine.
Are you okay?
Didn't squash her head
Yeah.
I just landed on my butt.
Why don't you go on ahead?
I'll handle this.
S-sure.

.....
Thanks!
I'll see you later!
...and Ume-chan.
Miiko...
It's
I'd better pick everything up.
There.
I'm not used seeing Coons!
That is her, right?

Are you okay? You turned back into a raccoon.
Huh?
Oh, it's fine!
I-I'm...
...so sorry about that.
Oh ...
What'll I do...?
Wh ...

Fukuta-san, have you seen a flower hair clip?
You lost some-thing?
W-what's wrong, Ume-chan?!
Is someone bullying you?
No...
It's not that...
しゃー
Oh! The flower you usually wear?
What happened to it?
Here?
Don't cry!
I'm sorry.

I'll try my best, big sister.
Okay.
Here--if you use this, you can focus without a leaf.
So it's special because your sister gave it to you...
Yes...
*Note: In Japanese legend, a raccoon is able to transform by putting a leaf on its head.
I'm really no good...
I can't transform without it.
ポロポロ

I'm going to get kicked out of school.
Then I'll be all alone again...
Alone? What about her sister?
Oh!
Maybe... she died?
It's possible... She is an animal...
Sis
D-don't cry, Ume-chan!
I'll help you!
Please don't cry!

And on top of that, I lost my sister's camera the other day...
I've only made it this far because I had the flower.
I'm no good without it.
She looked so hard for it...
Oh, so that was her sister's too.
Yuck!

Z
Z
Z
Move!
Can't you see we're having a touching moment here?!
!!
SHOCK

Don't you see that Ume-chan's crying?
She lost something important to her.
She might have to leave the school.
She says she'll be all alone. Don't you understand any of that?
All right! Let's look around!
Raccoon cooties!
Hiss!
Then get down.
Ah... Um...
Don't worry, we'll find it!
So don't cry.
Okay?
I really want to help her.
Grr!

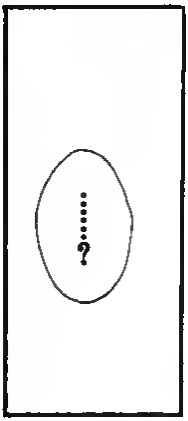
Why don't you help too, Miiko?
Nobody likes to be all alone.
Even you appreciated having someone there with you, Miiko.
So... around here?

Looks like they're getting ready for some kind of festival.

Aren't you guys supposed to come during fifth period?

...huh? Yes...
You're here already?
Hey, are you freshmen?
SYuGa

Fukuta-san's not here.
She left a mess-


.....?

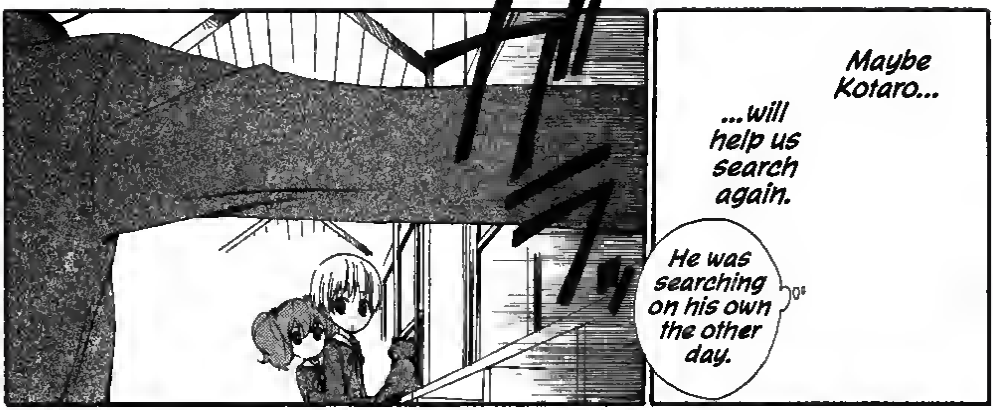
Er... Kamaba-san...? Yeah... I think so.
Yeah. She was.
And that raccoon, Kama-beer?
Hey, Yuichi! Miiko was with Fune, right?
Maybe something happened ...
I'd better pick 'em up.
I'm gonna go find them!
What?!
Kotaro---! Stay and help me!
You suck!
First years don't know anything when they get to the school, right?
So we figure the best way to teach them about the school clubs is to show them!

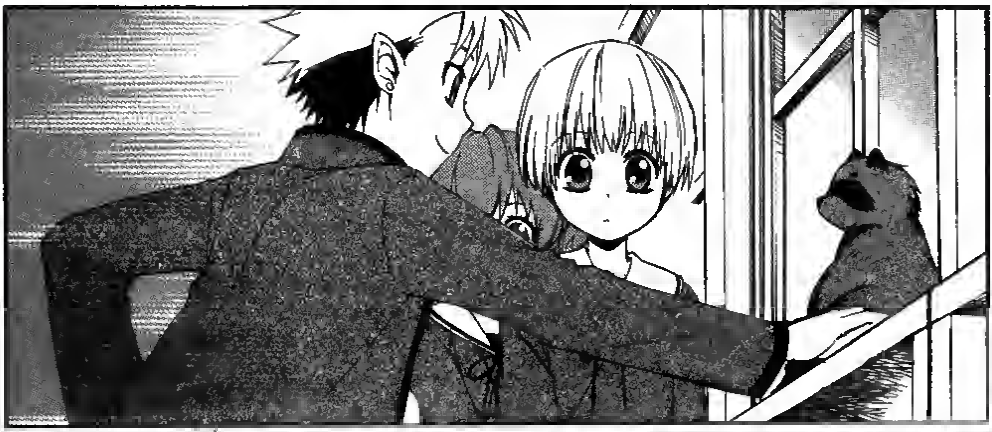
My friend lost her hair clip somewhere around here.
Have you seen it?
It's a pink flower.
It's best to make an informed decision about your club!
Did you get a pamphlet?
Oh... Not yet.
A pink flower...?
Not sure.
Huh?
Wanna check our club out, though?
We're the crafts club!
They had lots of nice stuff, but...

I'm sorry.
It has to be the one from my sister.
No good...?
Guess not
Come again!
I have to find it.
I need it.
Ume-chan can't just replace it that easily.
Otherwise my sister will be sad...

Oh! Think maybe it fell out the window?
Hey, we've come this far!
Um, I can look for it on my own.
You guys should get back to class before you get in trouble.
We're your friends, so you can count on us!
Let's keep looking, Miiko!

I'm sorry, okay?
...you were just mad at me.
Fune...
.....
Wait right there!
Oh!
There you are!
Kotaro?


Maybe Kotaro...
...will help us search again.
He was searching on his own the other day.



But surprisingly...
...Kotaro seemed more interested in Ume-chan than Miiko this time.

Here! For you!
Um...
How... ...did you--?
Get away!
And now, on to Miiko! Huggles!
Oh, I was told to give that to you.
But who...?
Oh, well...
...I forget!

.....
?
Nope.
Did you find it, Kotaro?
Is he hiding the fact that he found it himself?
I was just asked to give it back to her.

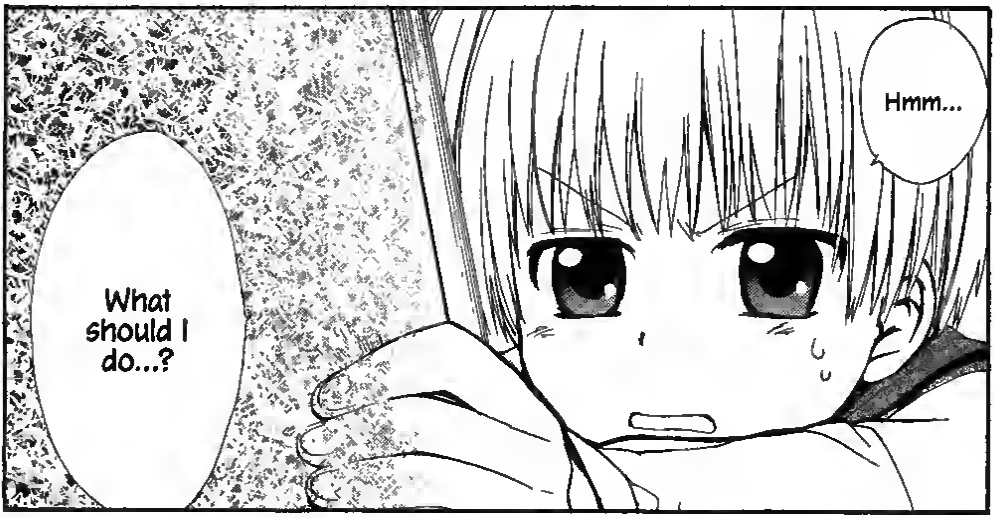
I see...
Well, I guess we'd better get back to class.
Fukuta-san! Suzuhara-san!

Here...
...I developed them for you.
Got a minute?
Ume-chan!
Every-thing okay now?
Yes!
My sister was so happy when she saw the photo.
Oh, from the other day! Thanks!
For you, too!
She was glad to finally see a picture of my friends!

What... does your sister do...?
?
She runs the photography club.
Wanna meet her?
Oh ...
So she goes to this school too?
See the classroom over there?
That's the photography club.
Ume-chan's sister...
...was really nice, and showed me and Miiko around the club.
I can't tell her...
...that I thought she was dead.

Report.7 Take Your Time

The next day was like a festival, with everyone visiting all the on-campus clubs.
Theater Club


Hmm...
What should I do...?

Gah!
Miiko, have you picked a club?
Club?
Not yet.
I can't decide...
Oh...
It looks so nice outside.
It's May already...

It'd feel so good to be running around out there right now.
But I can't join a sports club.
I can't jump nine meters...
Nothing.
What is it, Miiko?
...you scared me!
Don't pounce on me out of nowhere like that.
Ack--!
Fune!
...not yet.
Pick a club?

It's true--all the second and third years' clubs and birthdays are in here.
But not their species...
...so I can't find that snake.
"Almost everything about this school is in this book."
MORIMORIGITEN
盛木
Huh?
You're amazing, Fune.
Oh!
You read so well.
MORIMORIGITEN
But...
Stop asking me.
Which club is best?
Any ideas, Miiko?
Now...
Where's our class?
Huh...?
It's a list of our whole class!
I see my name!
SWAT!

Rin Tome 3 / 1 2
Neko Fukuta 2 / 2 2
Minno Tsukigusa 3 / 2 0
Our birthdays are listed...
...but I only submitted mine yesterday.
Huh?! Our clubs are listed too?!
Kotaro, basketball club...
Maybe they've been there...
...all along?
Smart answer!

What about me?
Oh... Nothing's written for me.
But how?! We haven't picked our clubs yet!
Nothing for you either.
!!!
A foreign name?!
"Kotaro Araki Silvino Karamatsu."
Wow!
Does it matter?
"Karamatsu" is Japanese, though.
Nothing for Ume-chan...
Nothing for Takuma-kun...
Basketball
And Sasuke-kun's is all crossed out or something.
Soccer

What do you want to do, Fune?
What a weird book.
I was scared the book was reading the future or something.
!!
.....
.....
Erm...
Ninja Club

There's a form in it that you tear out and use as your club application.
This club introduction pamphlet is really useful.
Omigosh! What's this club...?!
Ninja--?!!
Ninja club...!
Wh--
What should I do?
Believe it!

Neko's imagination.

I'm signing up for basketball!
Huh? You're gonna be in a sports club?
I'm accepting the challenge!
I just applied
Think about it!
Wouldn't it be really cool if I got good enough to play in games?
That is cool...
How about you?
Err... Um...

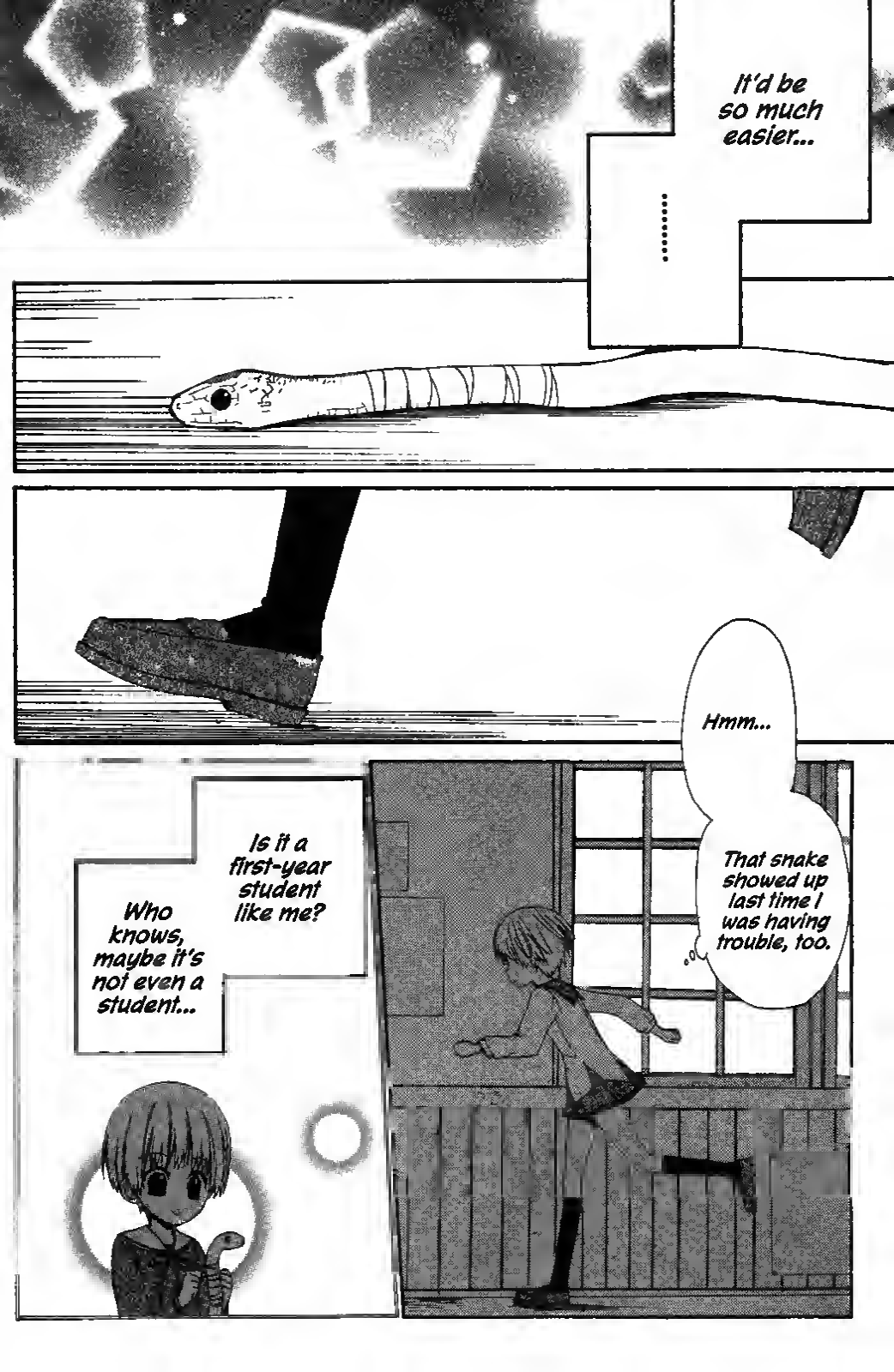
Hmm...
I have always been in sports clubs...
ひゅるるる
But...
...whoa!
Hey, sorry about that!
Oh, Yuichi! Fune!
.....
A-are you okay, Fukuta-san?!
I'm fine.
Kotaro!
It was a soft ball.
Watanuki-sensei'll be on your case if he catches you throwing balls around here again!
Crap! I better stop before he sees me!
Don't tell him!
The basketball club...
Apologize then!
Soft ball

But I keep thinking about...
...the ninja club.
Brass Band
Choir
I should put more thought into this.
There're so many!
Oh, you're not doing photo-graphy?
It's the art club.
Nope.
Yup!
I'm on my way to apply.
Ume-chan! Pick a club yet?
I like taking pictures, but...
...art can be anything-- even leaves on a canvas.
I think that's wonderful.

The art club, huh?
Not yet.
I... haven't decided.
What about you guys?
That's enough to make a choice?
Wait! Does the ninja club count as a sports club?
Who knows...?
I don't know...
I'm not very good at art or music.
Ugh, it's making my head spin... Around and around...
Oh...
Huh?
Yeah, like a snake...
Snake!
Knock it off, Miiko!

H-hey! You keep attacking this student! Stop it!
I can't help it! I was bored.
No eating or drinking fellow students!
Ume-chan, this snake needs help!
Um... I don't think I can be friends with a sn-snake...
...sorry. I didn't know you were scared of them.
Oops.

S-sure.
Well, see you later!
Oh, Miiko...!
It got away!
I'd definitely join a sports club if this was a normal school, but...
Now I wish...
Darn...
If only I could run faster...
...that book would just tell me which club to pick, so I could stop worrying so much!


It'd be so much easier...
.....
Hmm...
That snake showed up last time I was having trouble, too.
Is it a first-year student like me?
Who knows, maybe it's not even a student...

Wait, where am I now...?
WHAM
Here?
Art Room
It went into this room!
In there!
Snake!
I...I was running pretty fast, huh?
ハァはぁ
ガラ

Um... Excuse me, but...
...did a snake come in here?
Huh? A snake?
SLAM
Quiet down!
Sasuke-kun!
"Sasuke" is fine.
And Silvino's the only snake in our class.
I'm trying to concentrate here, guys.
Silvino's been here the whole time.
You mean me?
Art...?

Huh?
So you're Silvino Karamatsu...?
Oh, I just remembered because you have a foreign name.
So did you know you'd be joining the art club when you enrolled here?
Stinky!
It's a blue sky?
Really...?
Wow! It's so pretty!
Blue is a difficult color.
...was that supposed to be an answer to my question?
.....
Be quiet.
Oh, the Morimori handbook.
Book of prophecy?
Is it a book of prophecy...?
Oh... Really ...?
Nah... I decided when I visited them the other day.

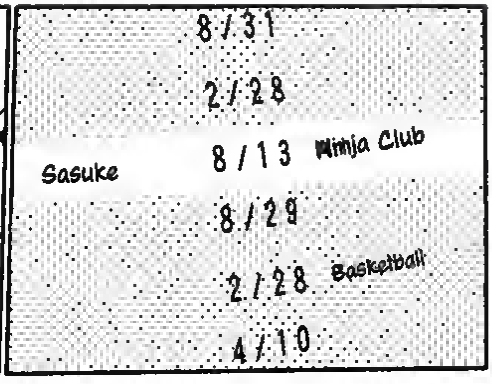
Since "kuma" means bear...
...is the kid named Kagekuma a bear?
You mean Kagekuma Kinoshita? He's my roommate, and he's a cat.
He was going after a snake on the first day of school.
So...he got you, Silvino-kun?
I was fine.
I stayed in my room that day.
.....
Oh, that idiot Kino-shita?
He chases anything that moves.
Oh, that's good...
Fukuta-san...
...what's the Morimori handbook?
Huh?
Be quiet.
A different snake, then...

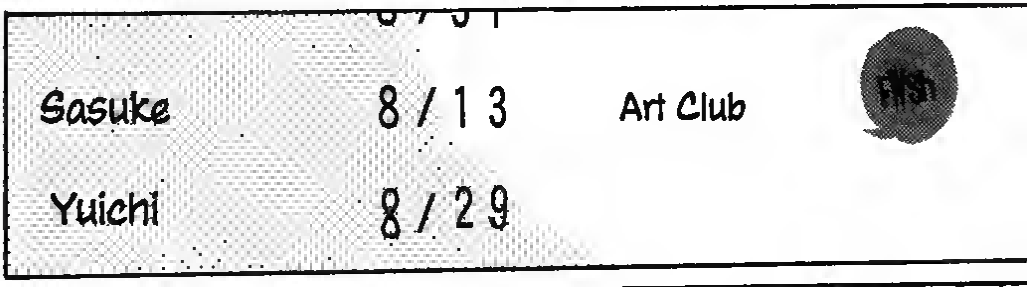
"Almost everything...is in this book."
Um, well...
I'm not sure.
Does everyone else?
I don't have one.
?
What do you mean?
Just what it sounds like...
Stinky!
Mind if I look at your...
...hand-book?

You won't fall?
No, I'm used to this.
Plus, I'll get in trouble if they catch me in the girls' dorm.
MORIMORI GAKUEN
To tell you the truth, it's so thick I haven't read much of it yet.

He's really focused...
And Miiko doesn't mind him....
Who's he?
Sasuke-kun. From our class.
Oh.
How unusual.

Is it the art club?


8/31
2/28
Sasuke
8/13
Ninja Club
8/29
2/28
Basketball
4/10


Sasuke
8/13
Art Club
Yuichi
8/29
Fish

I've been wondering about it too.
Huh?
Hey...
... about the snake.

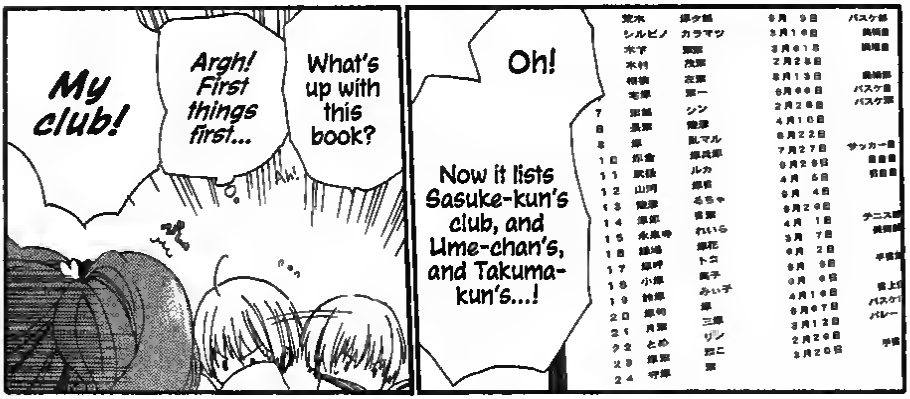
This school has a barrier around it...
...and the only way in is through the gate.
But what if there's a very small opening that appears from time to time?
Like the size of a leaf or something.
Maybe that's how that ... snake gets in. ...
Meaning... he's not a student?
Right.
So...
...I don't think you guys have to worry about it.
A white snake with a purple stripe.
It didn't seem like a normal snake, though...
Also...
...I've been meaning to tell you...
...I don't think the students know how to read human words besides their own names yet.

So maybe--
No, never mind. Perhaps it's been that way all along.
...oh, well.
Take care.
Sorry.
You wouldn't have any use for a book full of human words, right?

Good point.
So how did *you* get it?
Oh...
Right.
You didn't do very well on the last test, Sasuke-kun.
Was that on purpose?
MORIMORIGITEN
MORIMOR
Why?
Why ...?
Just curious.
You seem smart to me.
What's going on?

.....
I was out of line.
Sorry.
MORIMORIGITEN
I hope you'll let me see that book again...
...some-time.
MORIMORIGITEN

A cat...
.....
たたっ

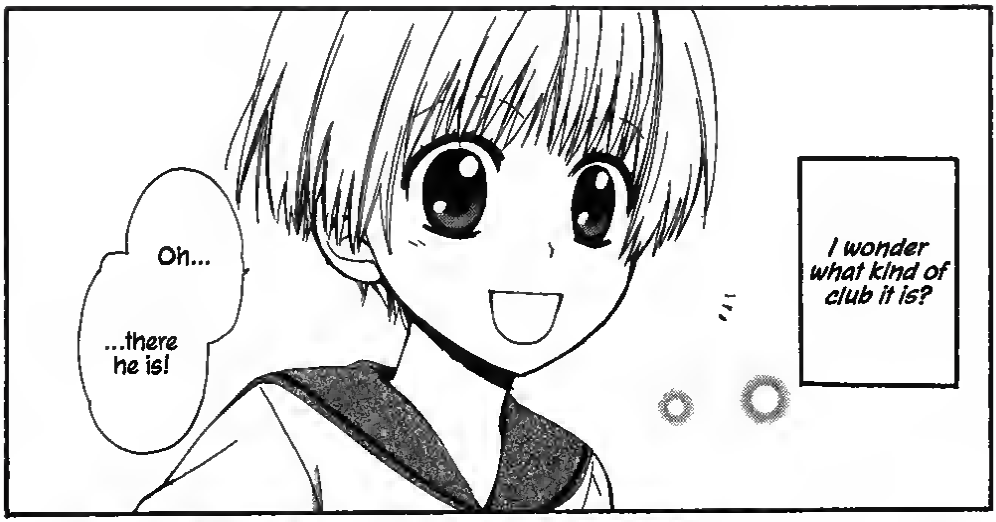

My club!
Argh! First things first...
What's up with this book?
Ah!
Oh!
Now it lists Sasuke-kun's club, and Ume-chan's, and Takuma-kun's...!

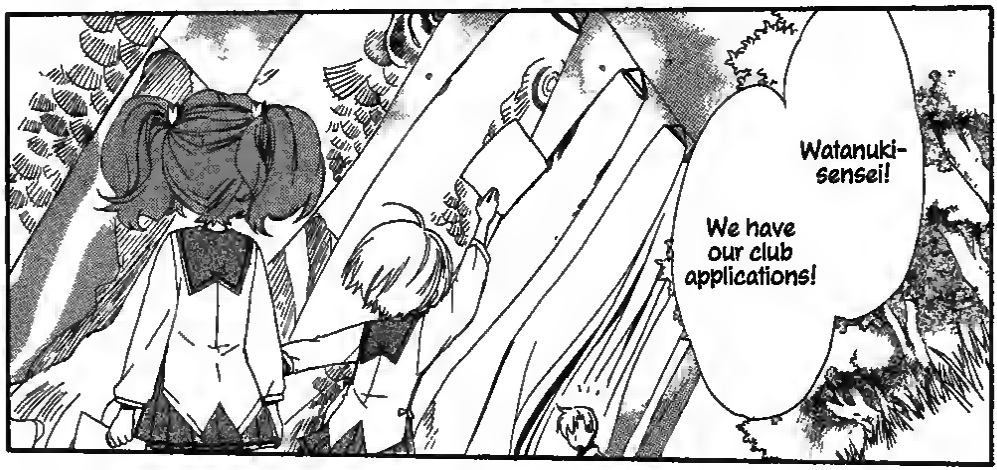
THUMP

.....
Hmm... I just can't get it out of my mind...
The ninja club..

I did the same thing..
I'm going with this one.

They're carp flags!
But I've never seen any that huge!
What're those?
Wow...!
Did the teachers do this?
Oh...
Ninja Club
Ninja
Today's May 5th-- Children's Day! Those symbolize us growing up!
So...is the ninja club a sports club?





Well, I'll find out soon.

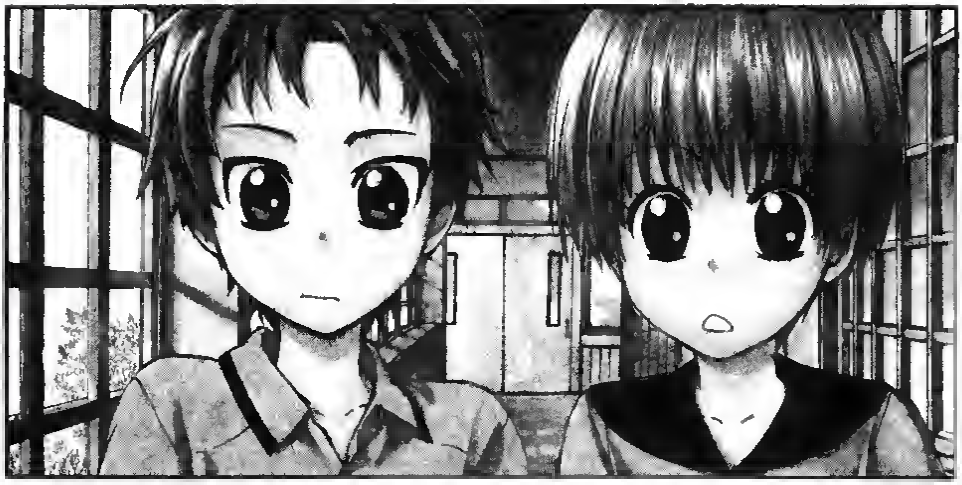
And whatever it is...

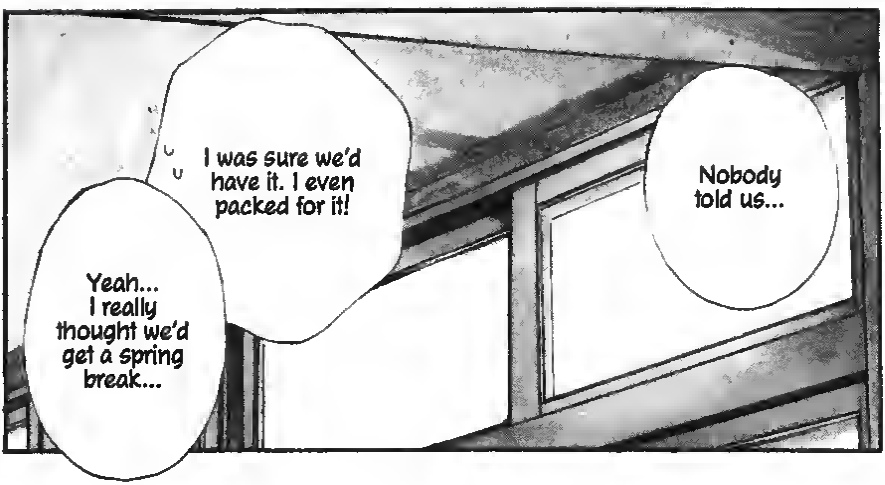
...I'll do my best!

What is "warmth," anyway?
If you get right down to it, a person could celebrate something different every day.
...then they wouldn't fill you with the same warmth.
But if every day were a holiday...

Report.8 Curl Up, Get Cozy

Huh? Golden Week?
No, we don't have that.




Nobody told us...
I was sure we'd have it. I even packed for it!
Yeah... I really thought we'd get a spring break...

This really sucks...
What're you two talking about?
Toko Kotoko (Cat)
N-nothing...
?
Here you go!
Wipe the window.
You're so smart, Fune.
And I'm a princess.
Yeah?
?
No Golden Week...?
Why not?!

All right, that's enough.
But it needs to be experienced!
Ouch!
Well, we do learn about it.
You might perspective
Isn't this school all about experiencing things?
Everyone has a spring break...
Come on...
.....
Huh?
There's something you should know.
Besides, you're talking too loudly.
...don't have a home or family to spend a break with.
...many students here...
The thing is...

And throwing them out of here for a week...
...could really mess up the rhythm they've been settling into.
Later, then.
We're done here.
.....
He has a point, but...
...there're other issues to think about.
キュキュッ
Maybe we can use that secret portal!
We should at least go home for a day.
Good idea!
I mean, my parents might think something's up if I don't come home.
You know?
Yeah.

Yeah!
Let's head over there!
.....
.....
The hole is gone.
That's weird. I swear it was here...
You can do it, Kotaro!
.....
"But what if there's...
...a very small opening that appears from time to time?"

We might as well try!
This'll be tough...
This campus is huge.
I'll check over there!
I-I guess I'll look too.
Huh?
Besides, I feel like it'll be okay if we find it ourselves!
"Many students here..."
Dam... I wanted to go back with even more people this time.
R-right.
I'll look around too.

"...don't have a home or family to spend a break with."
My senses are saying it's over there!
What's a family?
Do you have a family, Miiko?
Ouch...
W-well... Right now...
...are you happy being with me?
Heh heh..

Right...
Cat princess...
Why wouldn't you be with me?
?
Maybe that's why she's like this.
Hmm...
But... ...she probably doesn't know what it's like to have a home and family.
I'll look!
You wanna help?
All right! Let's find that portal!
If I had a little sister like Miiko, I know I'd really spoil her.
I only have a little brother.

You almost never turn back into a fox unless you're asleep, right?
You're great at transforming.
Why don't you come, too?
Remember Golden Week, that human vacation we learned about? I thought I'd go home and check it out.
Go where?
.....
Uh. Yeah..
Home ...?
Zzz...
Hey, Miiko--
How're we going to find it?

I wonder if Kotaro...
...or Sasuke-kun could find it.
Feels like he could.
.....
If I can get home...
Looking for an exit?

.....
Sasuke-kun...
Right...?
!
From what I've seen...
...there isn't one around here.
So it's not around here...
.....
You like being up in trees, huh?

Yeah.
You can see a lot from up here.
You weren't startled?
No, I was. But...
Shall I help too?
Um...
It's kind of hard to talk to him...
It feels like he knows every-thing...

Oh, right.
Heh.
Well, you said you can see a lot from up there, so...
What--?
Hup!
You ever climb trees to catch beetles?
Any thing?
Nope.
Then this is your first time?
You're a real city girl.
.....
Yeah ...
I guess.
What am I doing?

Do you miss the outside world?
Not really, but...
.....
You should go to the first floor lounge in the dorm.
At night, if you can.
Since the seniors are there during the day.
The Dorm
3rd Floor=1st Years
2nd Floor=2nd Years
1st Floor=3rd Years
There's a phone there.

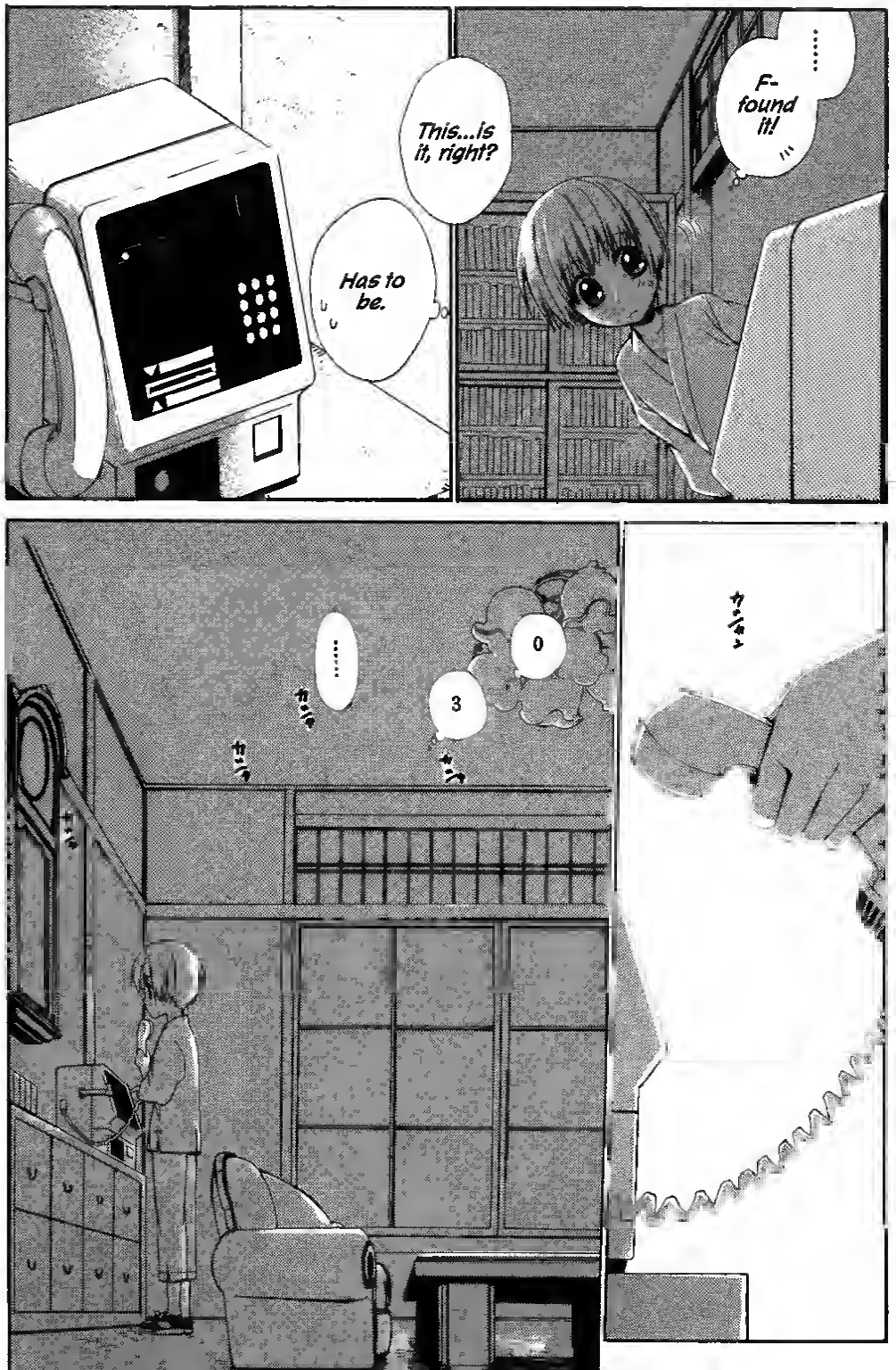
And it's connected to the outside world.
!
.....
How do you know that?
It's the same in the boys' dorm.
It costs, like, 10 yen for three minutes though.
Oh... So it's not free...

See you in class.
Later.
すいっ
Was that really Sasuke-kun...?
Wait...
Huh?
What the--?!
... hold on!
You said I could call home?!
Vanished
Tell me more!

Around there?
There're phone lines that reach here?
Seriously?!
It's true?
What'd he say?
I don't know.
Not sure
They couldn't find the gate either.
...I wonder if Fune and Yuichi are going off somewhere?
With me?
Miiko is friendlier!
Those two sure are friendly.
With Fune.

I don't know!
Somewhere far away...
.....
Fune...
Yeah?
Nothing!
What's wrong, Miiko?
Wh--
?
...it's nothing.
Huh?

Closet
Bathroom
Entrance
Office
Lounge
Room
Um... Let's see...
It should be by the office...
It's kind of scary out here at night...
I should've come with Miiko.
But she was asleep.
Okay...
I have my change ...


F-found it!
This...is it, right?
Has to be.
0
3

.....
Brrrrr-rrr-rrr-r

Should I hang up...?
Hello?
...hello?
This is Neko Fukuta...
DOONG!
This is...
...so nerve-wracking!

Sis?
Ken?!
(Her Younger brother)
Thank goodness! You're still up?
Of course not!
Do you know what time it is?
Sorry...
Why haven't you been in touch with us?
Mom's been really worried!
S-sorry...

Is Mom asleep?
Yeah.
Want me to wake her up?
No, that's okay.
She doesn't wanna smother you, so she swore she wouldn't call you.
She's really stubborn. Says the other parents probably aren't calling, so she can't either.
Right.
Not exactly ...
Just tell her I'm doing fine.
Sure thing.
It feels like I'm being tickled.
You sure are mature, Ken.
Hey, are you coming home for Golden Week?
So, are you making new friends?
How're your classes?
Are you homesick?
That's a lot of questions ...!
Just asking what Mom would ask.

Sorry...
This school doesn't have a spring break.
Oh...
Maybe I just didn't have time to feel homesick.
And my schoolwork is just gonna get harder.

Guess what? I'm second in my class!
No way! What kind of school is it?!
Hey...
...I'm worried about you.
Just a tiny bit
But...
... good luck!
Okay, sure.
You're almost finished with grade school, right?
fourth grade!
Sure, sure, I'll do my best--
Yeah, well... I'll be fine.
You do your best too, sis!

Ahhh!!!
ひた
ひた
Did you just scream...?
What's wrong?
"Ahhh"?
Oh...
Yawn
Nah...
My roommate was just yawning...
zzz.
Something happen?
.....

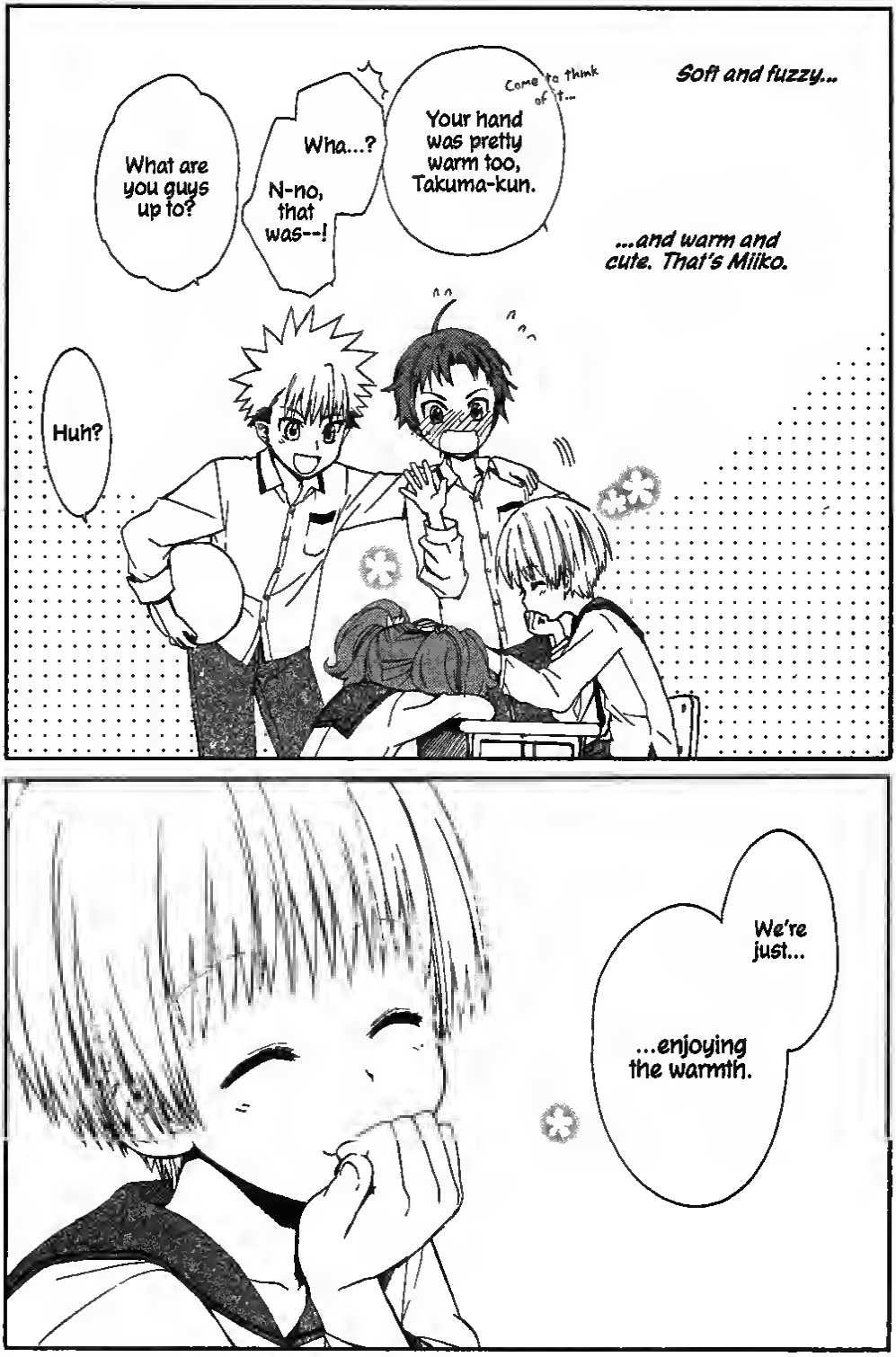
Yeah, say hi to Mom for me!
Say hi to your friend.
Night!
Night!
Should we hang up?
Well, it's pretty late.
Huh?
Guess so.
She came all the way down here...
...because I wasn't in the room?
pat
pat
tsn
tsn
.....

I wonder what everyone's up to...?
Does she purr in human form too?
Like a normal cat!
She's purring!
That's a first!
So cute!
Should I call them...?
.....

WIGGLE
ACHOO!
No, it's okay...
It's late, anyway.
Golden Week will be over soon...
Oh, well.

Miiko felt so warm and soft that...
...I didn't even care about a spring break anymore.
Sure was cold yesterday.
Class-1
Wasn't it?
My nose is running.
Tissues she got on the first day of school
Kotaro suddenly jumped into my bed.
I was going to sneak out and join you, but he was so warm...
Animal body heat
And then I just fell back to sleep.
We can try to get to the phones again tonight.
Ah... achoo--!!!

Got a cold?
I'm fine. No big deal.
You okay?
N-no way!
.....
Rub


Soft and fuzzy...
Come to think of it...
Your hand was pretty warm too, Takuma-kun.
Wha...?
N-no, that was--!
What are you guys up to?
...and warm and cute. That's Miiko.
Huh?
We're just...
...enjoying the warmth.

Report.9 Grabby Guys

On one really warm spring day...
...It arrived.
What the--?
From the ninja club?!
So we'll be doing some-thing?
Finally!
Ack! Miiko!
You'll cut yourself on that!
I'll get rid of it!

Y-yikes...
You're all cut up...
Oh, i'm fine.
I got kinda careless with some broken glass.
It's sharp!
.....
Nah, it's cool. We didn't get hurt or anything!
Um... Yeah, you did...
So an arrow came flying through your window?
Sounds like a dangerous club...
How's basketball?
Pretty normal.

What's with the fish?
I don't know...
Here's the white class... Blue and red are here... This is the art room, so it must be the third floor...
Oh, right.
Is that a map?
I think so.
Where's this going...?
Yeah!
Right?
Maybe they're taking care of fish!
Oh!
Why?
There's gotta be a bunch of fish there!
Fish
Pisces ···
...?
Hey, guys! What do you think--
Let's ask around!

You probably shouldn't be passing it around.
Wasn't this sent to *them*?
S-sorry...
It seems like you ought to solve it yourself.
The ninja club, wasn't it?
.....
P&J

I should do this myself.
Yeah...
Miiko didn't get angry!
Did he just--?!
How?!
Likes cats
Likes Miiko
I'm so pathetic...
.....
Sasuke-kun seems really smart.

We should go see.
Right...!
What do you think, Miiko?
As a fellow club member...?
We'd joined the ninja club, but...
...we hadn't actually done anything yet.
That's right.
So we were awfully nervous.
Well, I'm not seeing any fish...

Oh! Maybe it means "come fishing around"!
Who's that...?
But what's the fish?
!
Really? You are?
Oh!
Hey, I'm in the ninja club too.
Yay! Nice to meet...
...you ...?

Nice to meet you.
Huh ...?
Sasuke-kun...?
Something like this...
...happened before, too...
Or is it?

Hey, you guys!
...to join the ninja club?!
Are you ready...
So...
...you invite people to your club by shooting arrows at them?
You're a quick study. Please come in.
You got the message?

Our clubroom is different all the time! We're a club full of secrets!
Welcome, first years! Congrats on solving the puzzle!
I've the vice-prez, Zenda Miyoshi.
I'm the club president, Manjiro Uesugi. Good to meetcha!
Truth is, there just aren't that many rooms available.
And that message wasn't exactly the toughest nut to crack.

Introduce yourselves, newbies!
Starting on the right!
R-right!
I'm Neko Fukuta, a new student.
Miiko Suzuhara...

I'm a first year, too. The name is Yusuke Sagami.
Same last name as Sasuke-kun...
So, hey...
What's the deal with this club?
You joined without knowing?!
We don't know either...
Ninja are warriors shrouded in secrecy!
Spying, starting trouble, carrying out missions...! Ninjas rule!
Um... Aren't there any other members in the club?
.....

We didn't get any members last year.
Our army is now five strong...
A-anyway...
...we're very happy to have three new members.
I can practically taste their lack of confidence...
What's going on...?
Okay, I admit...
...maybe it's not the most popular club right now.
.....
Ouch!
Yeah, it seems really lame!
Miiko doesn't seem to mind him...
Who is this guy?

So it's a pretty slow club, huh?
Hey, now! We don't have many members, but we do a lot!
We're the guardians of an ancient wealth of knowledge!
That's why we can't draw attention to ourselves.
Note
Anyway, here is your first mission!

Your deadline is...
...in one week!
If anyone discovers that you're in the ninja club, you fail!
Learn all of the first years' names and clubs, and write them here.
Just do the best you can.
.....
This sounds pretty tough.

Hey.
Wanna team up with me?
It'll be easy to get info from my class, but...
Shouldn't be too hard to just get their names and clubs.
We have a whole week.
It's nothing.
Fune?
D-did he just... blow into my ear?!
ずさ
!!!
Wh...

Well...
Teaming up might be good...
Um...
.....
What's...
...with him?
Great!
A hand-shake?

Let's be good friends!
He's really touchy-feely...
Y-yeah. Let's...
Yay!

Ah...!
Nice to--
ぽい
And the same to you!
Oh!
Um... Miiko can be a little shy...
You probably shouldn't try to touch her.
Oh, shy?
How cute.
R-really?!
Sounds weird from someone who's not shy at all.

What is with him?!
Wha--?!
Once you get used to someone, you'll purr if they just stroke your chin, right?
Though I did think something similar yesterday...
We have something in common?
Just kidding.
Ha ha
GRAB

Staying out of it.
!!
CHU
Hug time! ♪
ガバ
しっ

All right!
I'll be off now.
Heh heh heh.
He's amazing.
He escaped unscathed...
Shredded papers
GYAAAAHHHH!

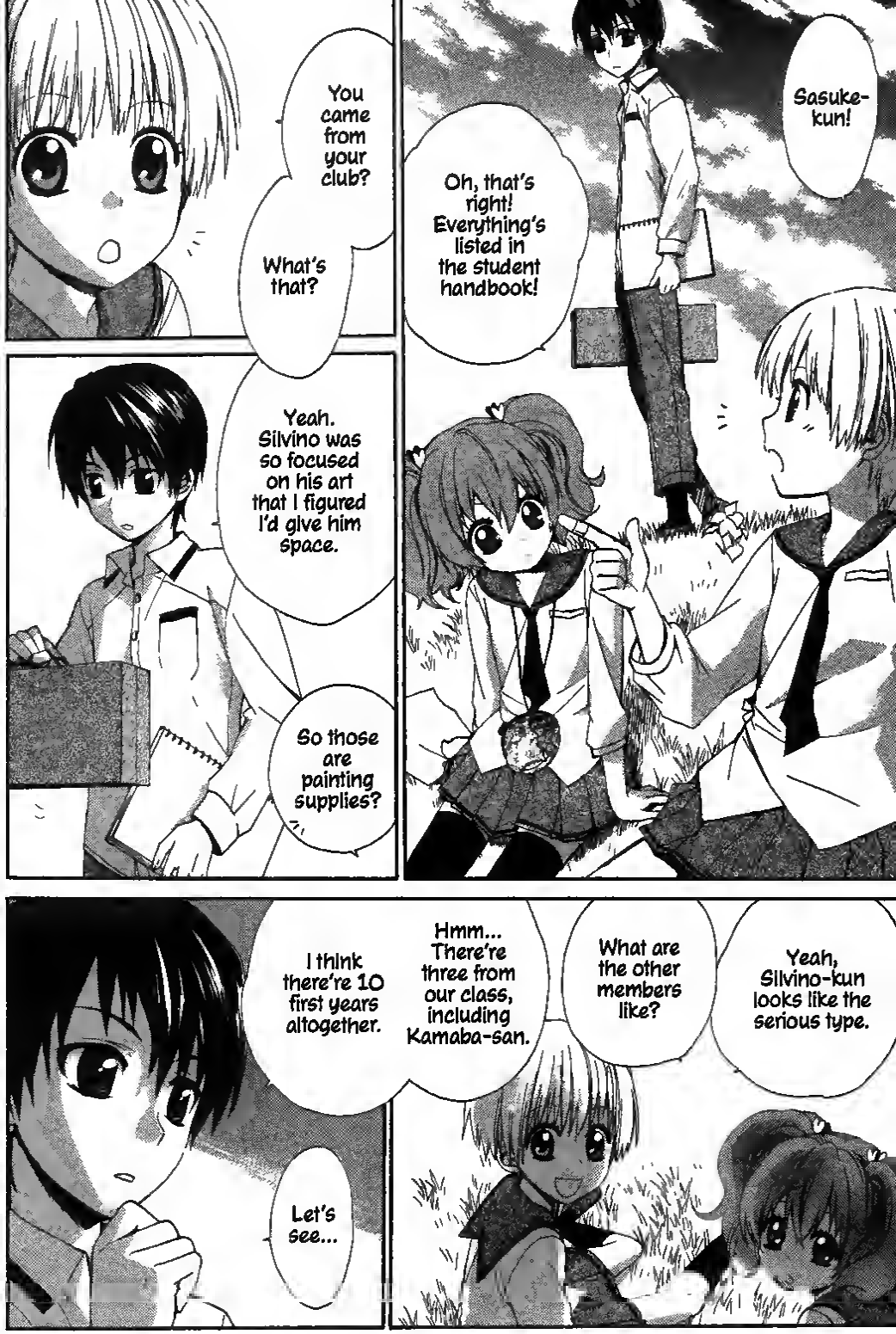
Huh?
ばちばち
I think he's in your class.
Oh! Say hi to my brother, Sasuke.
Of course ...
They're brothers ...
Good girl.
.....
I hate that guy!!!
ばったばった
You did well, Miiko.
Hate!
I hate him!
Uh ...
Yeah.

And here I thought being in a club would be easier...
.....
I can't take it! I never want to see him again!
Me? The basketball club!
Same class.
Yuichi and Shin and that girl Mino are in it too!
Oh, yeah. That's right...
How come?
scribble scribble
Oh, it's nothing!
I was just curious.
Later!
?
Hey, newbie!

Oh, the art club.
ガラ
きょろ
きょろ
It's hard to ask and sound natural...
The whole school is Miko's territory now
Oh! Fukuta-san, Suzuhara-san!
What's going on?
Art supplies can smell.
おわっ
Stinky!
I'll go in, okay?
Excuse me...!
ガラ

Oh... Hold on, I haven't learned everyone's names yet.
Why?
Right, Ume-chan's in this club.
One down.
Err... I was just wondering who else is in the art club.
Well, um...
I was just wondering...
Oh! Is it something for your club?
You're sharp, Ume-chan...
?
Never mind!
She figured it out instantly!

The sunset's so pretty...
But asking people sure is hard.
I thought being a ninja would be more about swords and throwing stars...
...or jumping around like acrobats.
Something a lot cooler.
Hey.
Do we actually have to ask each person?
Good question ...
Could you just use that book?


You came from your club?
What's that?
Yeah. Silvino was so focused on his art that I figured I'd give him space.
So those are painting supplies?
Sasuke-kun!
Oh, that's right! Everything's listed in the student handbook!
I think there're 10 first years altogether.
Let's see...
Hmm... There're three from our class, including Kamaba-san.
What are the other members like?
Yeah, Silvino-kun looks like the serious type.

Wait a sec...
Could this be it?!
Oh!
What class were they from...?
Every-thing!
For what?
Thank you, Sasuke-kun!
And Sasuke-kun remembered the Morimori handbook...
This is my chance to ask questions and sound natural!
Oh, right!
I met your brother!
Go me!
I think I can do it now.

He told me to say hi to you.
...huh?
See you tomorrow!
.....

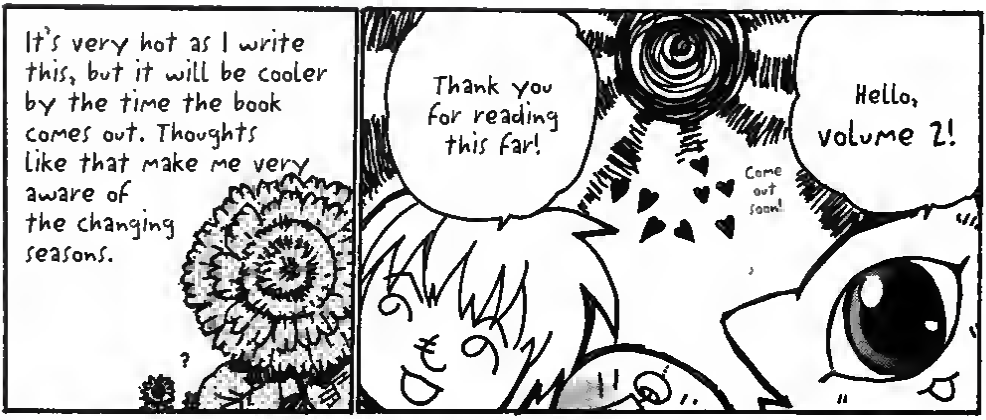
.....
Oh, sorry--
Yeah ...
This would work, but...

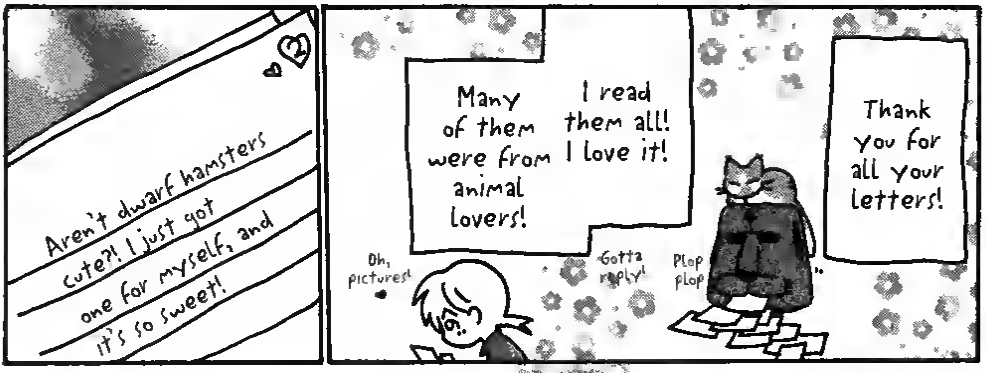
...copying them all just feels like cheating.
But it's going to be tough, since you don't want to team up with Yusuke-kun, Miiko.
Well...
Let's get as many names as we can!
Okay!
Let's work hard this week and then use the book to see how many we got!
...aaaa choo--!

Animal Academy 2/END

Morimori
athletic
uniform

Postscript [2]
~Hamster~


It's very hot as I write this, but it will be cooler by the time the book comes out. Thoughts like that make me very aware of the changing seasons.
Thank you for reading this far!
Come out soon!
Hello, volume 2!


Aren't dwarf hamsters cute?! I just got one for myself, and it's so sweet!
Many of them were from animal lovers!
I read them all! I love it!
Thank you for all your letters!
Oh, pictures!
Gotta reply!
Plop plop

Even when I would get worried and poke at him...
Chi-
....
Ugh
What-daya want?
Not silly!
He's fine
But the third vet said the hamster was fine, and the growth fell off a few days later.
My roommate came home crying because the vet said there was nothing to be done.
Tear
My hamster developed a large growth when he was young.
Poor little guy...
Itchy
He was still energetic when he got older.
I hope he had a good hamster life...
He's so small...
It caught me by surprise.
Lots of stuff happened, but he seemed to be doing well
Well, then...
I hope to see you in the next volume. Thank you very much!
You gave me a lot of good memories, my beloved little friend.
I learned so much from you.
I'm glad you were so small
(He was actually pretty big for a dwarf hamster.)
Those who helped me with vol. 2:
O. miwa
k. miwa
T. tomoko
M. asami
M. yu-ki
My Editor
Thanks!

HAKOBUNE HAKUSHO.2

Mitke Suzuhara

•Cat •Morimori High school 1st year student, White Class
•Seat Number 19 •Species: Felix catus
•She's a little immature for her age. Has high athletic capabilities, and a self-centered, princess-type personality. Watanuki-sensei just picked a random day as her birthday while filling in her application forms.

Umeha Kamaba

•Raccoon Dog (Tanuki) •Morimori High School 1st year student, White Class
•Seat Number 16 •Species: Nyctereutes procyonides
•She got to see a lot of human magazines even before she came to school, so she's a little better at reading than the average student. Omnivorous, so there are few foods she particularly likes or dislikes. Faints easily.

A Kitty Gourmand
Ooh, how pretty!
Look, look, Miiko! Cherry blossoms!
Chomp
She ate them...
Nom
nom
She likes foxtail grass, too
Look! Foxta—
Munch
My animal friends are gourmands, too!
Rose
Soy milk

HAKOBUNE HAKUSHO

Question 1
Can you be your natural self, if you know the truth?

Question 2
Can you assimelate into our school?

Question 3
Can you pledge secrecy that you are a human being?

[1]

Neko Fukuta

•Human •Morimori High School 1st year student, White Class
•Seat Number 23 ~Is believed to be a cat
•15 years old and a bad student. Her family includes her mother, father and little brother. Her athletic ability is (just barely) decent.

So can I take "Ta" from Fukuta and "Ko" from Neko and...
...call you Tako?
*Idea from my friend S
*Tako as in "octopus"?
Rako...
SuzuhaRA Miiko
H-hi...
Hello, Tako.
No, Smee! From Peterpan?!
Like this?
Sumi!
SUzuhara Miiko.

In the next volume of...

Neko's got a cold, and soon a small conspiracy begins regarding how to get her human cold medicine without revealing her secret! And speaking of secrets, Yuichi Takuma has a really big surprise in store!